

these men account their travails along the Normandy shores and honoring the memories of their fallen comrades, I was stirred with a sense of awe for our country's greatest patriots, America's military veterans.

I joined historian Stephen Ambrose at the opening of our National D-Day museum, where we memorialized not only those fallen in World War II's European Theater, but in Pacific battles as well.

As we recalled General Douglas MacArthur's fateful proclamation in 1942, I shuddered with the irony of it all—MacArthur, forced to retreat off Corregidor in the Philippines for Australia, vowed, I shall return. He did, and led our Nation to the most decisive victory in modern history. MacArthur's promise was heralded as a testament to America's convictions. Our troops fulfilled their duty to our country, defeating the Axis powers resoundingly. But our country never fully fulfilled its obligations to its troops. Promised compensation for service related disabilities, U.S. veterans have been denied critical benefits owed to them.

For over one hundred years, the Pentagon has cut into military retirees' incomes, acquiring non-appropriated funds off the backs of disabled veterans. This so-called concurrent receipt issue derives from a fiscal year 1892 appropriations bill. That's right, 1892.

In the aftermath of the Mexican War, Congress had hoped to prevent veterans from burdening America's budget by acquiring more than one pension payment. At this time, some veterans were receiving retired pay, disability pension, active duty pay, and a pension based on a disability from the Mexican War of 1846–1848. Congress decided to forbid such dual compensation for either past or current service and a disability pension. The fiscal year 1892 appropriations legislation for veterans' benefits included the first prohibition of concurrent receipt.

Since its inception, Members of Congress have tried to overturn concurrent receipt prohibitions, but have failed. Indeed, in the last Congress, we began to make substantial ground in our effort. I supported an amendment to the Senate's Defense Authorization Bill to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive military retirement pay concurrently with veteran's disability compensation. House conferees over this bill rejected the provision. Instead, Congress was only able to secure \$100 to \$300 monthly special compensation for severely disabled retirees.

I can only hope that this measure will be the first of several steps that the Federal government takes to meet its commitments to our disabled military retirees. U.S. soldiers, sailors, air-

men, and marines still put their lives and abilities on the line for our nation's defense. And yet, the government fails to meet its commitments in compensation. I predict that we will not overcome our services' recruiting and retention crises until we begin to restore such critical retiree benefits. In so doing, the United States will promote its national security and honor its guardians of liberty; our troops and our country deserve no less.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH SEWELL

● Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I rise today to note with sadness the recent death of North Carolina author Elizabeth Sewell. Dr. Sewell succumbed to her third bout with cancer on January 12, at the age of 81.

Dr. Sewell was a writer of international renown. She authored four novels, three volumes of poetry, and 5 volumes of criticism, as well as scores of short stories.

Dr. Sewell was born in India and educated at Cambridge University in England. She made Greensboro, North Carolina her home starting in 1960 and became a citizen of the United States in 1974.

A gifted writer and thinker, Dr. Sewell studied and wrote on topics as diverse as race relations in the South, the role of the imagination in science and literature, and life in the academic world.

Her work garnered the prestigious poetry, fiction and non-fiction award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1981.

Elizabeth Sewell was more than a prolific writer. She was also a talented teacher who shared her love of great literature with students in North Carolina and elsewhere.

She served as a visiting professor and writer-in-residence at Vassar College, the University of Notre Dame, and Bennett College in Greensboro. She became Joe Rosenthal Professor of Humanities at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1974.

As North Carolinians, we are proud to claim Elizabeth Sewell as one of our own. All Americans—indeed, people all over the world—were privileged that she chose to share her many gifts with us.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-400. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the budget for fiscal year 2002; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget.

EC-401. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure and Reporting of CRA-Related Agreements" (RIN1550-AB32) received on January 4, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-402. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, and the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, a report on the feasibility and desirability of mandatory subordinated debt; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-403. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interagency Guidelines Establishing Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information and Rescission of Year 2000 Standards for Safety and Soundness" (RIN1550-AB36) received on January 5, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-404. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the national emergency with respect to Yugoslavia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-405. A communication from the Senior Banking Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Subsidiaries" (RIN1505-AA85) received on January 5, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-406. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations for January 21, 2000" (65 FR 80362) received on January 10, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-407. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations for December 21, 2000" (65 FR 80364) received on January 10, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-408. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bank Holding Companies and Change in Bank Control" (Docket No. R-1065) received on January 11, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-409. A communication from the Senior Banking Counsel, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Merchant Banking Investments" (RIN1505-AA78) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-410. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure and Reporting of CRA-Related Agreements" (RIN1550-AB32) received on January 12, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-411. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and